

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, August 28, 2003, 7:45 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Jim Hewitt, Thomas Laging, V.J. Nelson, Patrick O'Donnell, Jeff Searcy (departed at 8:40 a.m.) present. **Karen Kilgarin and Kim Todd absent.**

Others: Lynn Johnson, Mark Canney, and Jerry Shorney (Parks and Recreation); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Dept.)

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

Mr. Searcy called the meeting to order at 7:52 a.m.

Approval of meeting notes of February 27, 2003; distribution of notes from April 24, 2003 and July 24, 2003.

Mr. Hewitt moved approval of the February 27, 2003 minutes, seconded by Ms. Nelson. Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kilgarin and Todd absent.

Application by The Clark Enersen Partners for a Certificate of Appropriateness for work on Lincoln Mall, the public right-of-way between So. 10th Street and So. 14th Street, between the State Capitol and the County/City Buildings, in the Capitol Environs District.

Mr. Zimmer stated that there have been successive presentations to the Commission from Clark Enersen Partners regarding the work on Lincoln Mall. Work on the project is scheduled to begin this fall.

Mr. Searcy made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for work on Lincoln Mall, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kilgarin and Todd absent.

Application by First Christian Church for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 430 S. 16th Street in the Capitol Environs District.

Mr. Zimmer stated that First Christian Church has asked to place an identification sign at their church. He noted that the sign is large, but the site is also large.

Mr. Laging stated that his only concern is that the sign is internally lit. He suggested that in the future the Commission look at guidelines on lighting for signs. Mr. Zimmer stated that he agrees. Mr. Laging suggested that the color of the letters and the background of the sign be reversed.

Mr. Laging made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign and give Mr. Zimmer the prerogative to discuss the sign with First Christian Church to tone down the luminosity.

Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kilgarin and Todd absent.

Request to rename S. 15th Street "Goodhue Boulevard" from H to A Streets in Capitol Environs District.

Mr. Zimmer stated the reaction from the various City agencies has been mixed on renaming the street. Generally, renaming of streets is not something we should do often, but it has been done around the capitol. He feels this is a good place to note Goodhue's contribution. Mr. Zimmer stated that he is seeking the Commission's thoughts on whether or not they approve of this, but the City Council will take final action.

Ms. Nelson stated that she believes the name should be changed, but would like to see it be an educational opportunity as well. Mr. Hewitt stated that initially he did not approve of the name change, but he has since changed his mind. He noted that he spoke with Fred Luebbe, who felt that the name change was quite appropriate. Mr. Hewitt stated that has doubts on whether or not the Commission should become advocates for this. Mr. Laging stated that he feels the name change is appropriate because the initial plans for the capitol showed the extensions to the mall. He also noted that the Commission should be a promoter of the capitol environs that are of a public nature, and he is not opposed to supporting this effort.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if the neighbors along the street have been contacted. Mr. Zimmer stated that the Near South Neighborhood has been contacted and they stated that they would talk to the neighbors. Mr. Zimmer then suggested that the Commission give him authority to work with the Near South Neighborhood. Mr. O'Donnell stated that he feels it is important to do whatever we can to facilitate discussions with the neighbors.

Mr. Hewitt stated that from the standpoint of the recognition of the magnificence of the building and the image it brings to Nebraska, it is important. Mr. Searcy stated that to his knowledge, there is no other recognition given to Goodhue. Mr. Zimmer stated that this is a world class building, and Goodhue is at the center of the project. Mr. Searcy noted that he feels that the educational component is very important also.

Mr. Laging made a motion to approve the request and to continue public outreach efforts, seconded by Ms. Nelson. Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kilgarin and Todd absent. Mr. Hewitt noted that he is not in favor of the Commission being the advocate for this particular request.

Staff Report/Miscellaneous

In reference to the Ferguson House, Mr. Zimmer stated that the state has completed the formal steps prior to requesting proposals of the sale in the surplus property category. He stated that an appraiser has been contracted by the state to find its highest and best use. Mr. Zimmer stated that he feels that possibly office space is not the highest and best use. He would like to see it become a private residence.

Mr. Searcy departed and asked Mr. Laging to chair the meeting.

Mr. Zimmer updated the Commission on some work on Centennial Mall that Parks and Recreation is

pursuing. Mr. Johnson stated that it will take several years to amass enough money to begin this project. He noted that they will bring some general concepts to the Commission at a future meeting to continue discussions.

There being no further business, Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 a.m., seconded by Mr. Hewitt.

Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kilgarin and Todd absent.

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